

Management Agency, Washington, DC 20472, (202) 646-3260.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Notice is hereby given that, effective this date and pursuant to the authority vested in the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency under Executive Order 12148, I hereby amend the emergency declaration to include other assistance as authorized under Title V of the Stafford Act:

Debris clearance and emergency protective measures as authorized under Title V of the Stafford Act in response to the water main break in Kent and Providence Counties (already designated for emergency provision and/or restoration of water service).

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance No. 83.516, Disaster Assistance)

Lacy E. Suiter,

*Executive Associate Director, Response and Recovery Directorate.*

[FR Doc. 96-32506 Filed 12-20-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6718-02-P

## FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

### Notice of Agreement(s) Filed

The Commission hereby gives notice of the filing of the following agreement(s) under the Shipping Act of 1984.

Interested parties can review or obtain copies of agreements at the Washington, DC offices of the Commission, 800 North Capitol Street, N.W., Room 962. Interested parties may submit comments on an agreement to the Secretary, Federal Maritime Commission, Washington, DC 20573, within 10 days of the date this notice appears in the Federal Register.

*Agreement No.:* 202-002744-089.

*Title:* West Coast of South America Agreement.

*Parties:*

A.P. Moller-Maersk Line  
Compania Chilena de Navegacion  
Interoceania, S.A.  
Compania Sud Americana de  
Vapores, S.A.  
Crowley American Transport, Inc.  
Sea-Land Service, Inc.  
South Pacific Shipping Company, Ltd.  
d/b/a Ecuadorian Line

*Synopsis:* The proposed Agreement revises Article 7(g) to file provisions pertaining to the participation of a member who has submitted its notice of resignation, and revises Article 9(d) regarding voting pursuant to polls.

*Agreement No.:* 202-010776-101.

*Title:* Asia North America Rate Agreement.

*Parties:*

American President Lines, Ltd.

Hapag-Lloyd Aktiengesellschaft  
Kawasaki Kisen Kaisha, Ltd.  
A.P. Moller-Maersk Line  
Mitsui O.S.K. Lines, Ltd.  
Nedlloyd Lijnen B.V.  
Neptune Orient Lines, Ltd.  
Nippon Yusen Kaisha Line  
Orient Overseas Container Line, Inc.  
P&O Containers  
Sea-Land Service, Inc.

*Synopsis:* The proposed Agreement adds a new Article 14.4 of the Agreement to provide for "Joint Service Contracts" with shippers upon authorizing vote of the parties. The new article also sets parameters for such contracts. The parties have requested a shortened review period.

*Agreement No.:* 202-011536-001.

*Title:* The Grand Alliance Agreement.

*Parties:*

Hapag-Lloyd, A.G.  
Neptune Orient Lines, Ltd.  
Nippon Yusen Kaisha  
P&O Containers Limited

*Synopsis:* The parties are amending their agreement to authorize discussion and agreement, on a voluntary adherence basis, on rates, charges, classifications, rules, brokerage and forwarder compensation in the trades covered by the agreement, excluding the trade to and from the European Community.

By Order of the Federal Maritime Commission.

Dated: December 17, 1996.

Joseph C. Polking,

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 96-32475 Filed 12-20-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6730-01-M

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Agency for Health Care Policy and Research

#### Nominations of Topics for Evidence-based Practice Centers (EPCs)

The Agency for Health Care Policy and Research (AHCPR) invites nominations of topics for evidence reports on the prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and management of common diseases and clinical conditions and, where appropriate, the use of alternative/complementary therapies, and for technology assessments of specific medical procedures or health care technologies.

As part of the effort to reorganize and restructure its programs, AHCPR is no longer facilitating the development of clinical practice guidelines and is expanding its program of health care

technology assessments. AHCPR will serve as a science partner with private-sector and other public organizations in their efforts to improve the quality, effectiveness, and appropriateness of health care delivery in the United States. The Agency's goal is to narrow the gap between what is known and what is done in health care. AHCPR will support Evidence-based Practice Centers (EPCs) to undertake scientific analyses and evidence syntheses of high-priority topics. The EPCs will produce science syntheses—evidence reports and technology assessments—that provide the scientific foundation for public and private organizations to use in developing and implementing their own practice guidelines, performance measures, and other tools to improve the quality of health care and in making decisions related to the effectiveness or appropriateness of specific health care technologies.

The process that AHCPR will employ to select priority topics for analyses by the EPCs is described below.

#### Background

Under Title IX of the Public Health Service Act, AHCPR is charged with enhancing the quality, appropriateness, and effectiveness of health care services and access to such services. AHCPR accomplishes these goals through scientific research and through promotion of improvements in clinical practice (including the prevention of diseases and other health conditions) and improvements in the organization, financing, and delivery of health care services (42 U.S.C. 299-299c-6 and 1320b-12). In carrying out these purposes, AHCPR, among other activities, has in the past arranged for the development of clinical practice guidelines and has conducted assessments of health care technologies.

Through the creation of EPCs, AHCPR will be better able to serve as a science partner with private-sector and other public organizations in addressing a greater number of health care topics and a broader range of clinical conditions and health problems. The EPCs will provide a strong scientific foundation for private and public organizations to use in their own efforts to improve clinical practice. The EPCs will conduct literature reviews and assess and synthesize scientific evidence to produce evidence reports and technology assessments. The reports and assessments will provide systems of care, provider societies, health plans, public and private purchasers, States, and others a scientific foundation for development and implementation of their own practice guidelines, clinical